

Re: Encryption of Connection String

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.framework.aspnet/2006-12/msg01739.html>

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"Ashish Jain" <erashishjain@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:%23B0BYpQHHHA.1064@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Environment: .Net Framwework 2.0/SQL Server 2005 – Windows XP SP2/Windows Server 2003

My web application is a mix of ASP and ASP.Net. My "ASP" web application uses a serviced COM+ component written in C# 2.0 for authentication. The configuration file itself is located in System32 folder as required by COM+. For reading the config file, we are creating a separate appdomain in the serviced component (since COM+ component is used by ASP pages).

The connection string is stored in clear text right now and I want to encrypt it.

My developer environment is Windows XP SP2 and deployment is Windows Server 2003. I want the approach to work on both systems. Also, I want to keep it easy to copy the installation from one machine to another with minimum changes (say from QA to deployment).

Can you please guide me on the standard approach for encryption of connection string?

There is no "standard approach" per se – take a look at the System.Cryptography namespace – loads of options for string encryption... Also, a cursory Google search would have shown you loads of possibilities too:

<http://www.google.co.uk/search?sourceid=navclient&ie=UTF-8&rls=GGLG.GGLG:2006-28.GGLG:en&q=%22web>

However, you might ask yourself why you should bother doing this in the first place... Who are you trying to hide the connection string from...? If your users can see it, then you need to start from the beginning!

If a hacker is clever enough (or your security is poor enough) to get as far as being able to read your config file, then the fact that its contents may or may not be encrypted really is the least of your worries... :-)

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